

Application No. 10/540,355
Amendment Dated December 2, 2008
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2008

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A device for condensing volatile organic compounds (VOC) from a storage or transport tank into oil from the same or another storage or transport tank via a downcomer directing flow, wherein the upper part of the downcomer, which upper part defines a flow path having has a cross sectional area perpendicular to the direction of flow that is substantially unreduced, is connected to a gas pipe, the gas pipe communicating with the flow path ~~upper part of the storage or transport tank~~, and where the upper part of the downcomer is arranged at a sufficient height above the upper part of the storage or transport tank to cause an inflow of gas from the upper part of the storage or transport tank to the flow path due to the underpressure being created in the upper part of the downcomer when oil flows down through the downcomer.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~Claim~~ claim 1, ~~wherein it comprises~~ comprising a cooler arranged upstream of the upper part of the downcomer so that the oil will flow through said cooler prior to flowing into the upper part of the downcomer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A device for condensing volatile organic compounds from a storage or transport tank into oil in the same or another storage or transport tank, the device comprising:

a tank having a lower section for holding oil and an upper section for holding volatile organic compounds associated with the oil;

a downcomer directing flow into the tank and having an upper part and having a lower end in communication with the lower section of the tank, the upper part being located at a predetermined height above the upper section of the tank and defining a flow

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path having a substantially constant cross sectional area perpendicular to the direction of flow~~inner diameter~~; and

a gas pipe connected to the flow path~~upper part of the downcomer and connected to the upper section of the tank~~;

wherein the predetermined height is sufficient to cause an inflow of gas from the upper section of the tank to the flow path~~upper part of the downcomer~~ when gravity causes oil to flow from the upper part of the downcomer to the second end of the downcomer.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The device of claim 3, wherein the downcomer defines a flow path having~~has~~ a substantially constant cross section perpendicular to the direction of flow~~inner diameter~~ from the upper part to the lower end.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, comprising a pipe connecting the upper part of the downcomer to the lower section of the tank.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, comprising a pump configured to pump oil from the lower section of the tank to the upper part of the downcomer.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, comprising a cooler configured to cool oil flowing into the upper end of the downcomer.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) The device of claim 7, wherein the cooler is connected to the pipe.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, wherein the upper part of the downcomer is curved and the gas pipe is tangentially connected to the upper part of the downcomer.

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Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method for condensing volatile organic compounds from a storage or transport tank into oil in the same or another storage or transport tank, the method comprising the steps of:

causing oil to flow into an upper part of a downcomer that is located at a predetermined height above the storage or transport tank, the downcomer defining a flow path having a substantially constant cross sectional area perpendicular to the direction of flow ~~inner diameter~~;

allowing gravity to accelerate the oil down the flow path of the downcomer from the upper part to a lower end that is in communication with the storage or transport tank; and

providing a gas pipe connecting gas in the storage or transport tank to the upper part of the downcomer;

wherein the predetermined height is such that gravity creates a sufficient underpressure in the upper part of the downcomer to draw gas from the storage or transport tank into the upper part of the downcomer.